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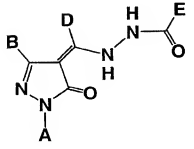
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by the following formula (1):



Formula (1)

wherein

A is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

B is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

D is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl ~~group,~~ group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms ~~or a C_{2-14} aryl group~~; and

E is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups, one or more halogen atoms, one or more cyano groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, NG^1G^2,

wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more carbamido groups,

wherein the carbamido group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group, one or more sulfamido groups, one or more hydroxycarbamido groups, one or more hydroxysulfamido groups, one or more tetrazole groups, and one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NG^3,

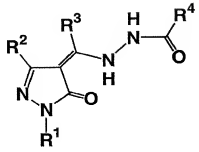
wherein G^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group,

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

wherein the sulfamido group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by the following formula (2):



Formula (2)

wherein

R^1 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl ~~group,~~ group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms ~~or a C_{2-14} aryl group~~, and

R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups or NR^5R^6, and

wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups;

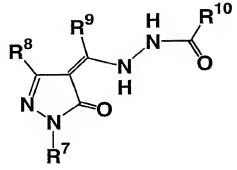
a tautomer prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39, wherein R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39, wherein R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with NR^5R^6 (wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups), a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39, wherein R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more nitro groups, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by the following formula (3):



Formula (3)

wherein

R^7 is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^8 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^9 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl ~~group,~~ group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms ~~or a C_{2-14} aryl group~~, and

R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more carbamido groups, one or more sulfamido groups, one or more hydroxycarbamido groups, one or more hydroxysulfamido groups, one or more tetrazole groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{11},

wherein R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, and

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more carboxyl groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound, or a solvate thereof.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$, wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{11}; and R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more sulfonic acid groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

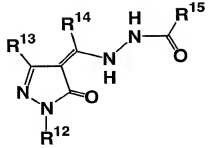
Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more phosphonic acid groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 48 (Previously Prcsented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more tetrazole groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more carbamido groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43, wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with one or more sulfamido groups; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): A pyrazolone compound represented by the following formula (4):



Formula (4)

wherein

R^{12} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups,

one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups, and

wherein the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group;

R^{13} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group;

R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl ~~group,~~ group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms ~~or a C_{2-14} aryl group~~, and

R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group,

wherein the C_{2-14} aryl group is substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a carbamido group and a sulfamido group,

wherein the carbamido group and the sulfamido group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, a sulfonic acid group, a phosphonic acid group, a carbamido group, a sulfamido group, a hydroxycarbamido group, a hydroxysulfamido group, a tetrazole group, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group and $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$,

wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{16},

wherein R^{16} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group, and

wherein Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51, wherein R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a hydroxyl group and a carboxyl group; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51, wherein R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with an amino group and a carboxyl group; a tautomer, a prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51, wherein R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a nitro group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a carbamido group and a sulfamido group, wherein the carbamido group and the sulfamido group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and with a carboxyl group; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 38.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 39.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 40.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 41.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 42.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 43.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 44.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 45.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 46.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 47.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 48.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 49.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 50.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 51.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 52.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 53.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): A thrombopoietin receptor activator comprising the pyrazolone compound according to Claim 54.

Claim 72 (Currently Amended): A ~~preventive, therapeutic or improving agent for diseases against which activation of the thrombopoietin receptor is effective~~ pharmaceutical

preparation, comprising the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 55~~, as an active ingredient; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the activator or a solvate thereof~~, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of an excipient, a lubricant, a binder, a disintegrant, a humectant, a plasticizer, and a coating agent.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): A platelet increasing agent comprising the thrombopoietin receptor activator according to Claim 55, as an active ingredient; a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the activator or a solvate thereof.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): A medicament comprising at least one pyrazolone compound of formula (1) according to Claim 38.